Moving Colors

Watch how colored water can travel and mix colors together.

Kit contains:

- 3 Small cups
- 2 Pieces of paper towel
- 2 Bath color tablets

You will need: water.

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INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1. Fill two cups about 3/4 of the way with water. Put the three cups in a row with the empty one in the middle.

Step 2. Put one color tablet in each cup of water. Watch the water turn red, blue, or yellow!

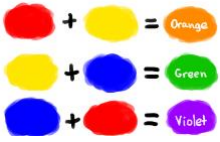
Step 3. Fold the paper towels the long way. Take one towel and form a bridge from the bottom of a water cup to the bottom of the empty cup. Make a second bridge from the other water cup as shown.

Step4. Watch the water move up the paper towels and into the middle cup! This takes some time; you can leave and keep checking back.

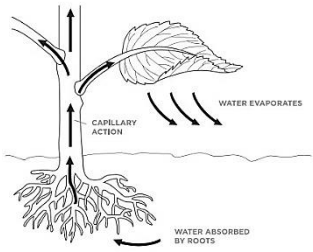
Step 5. After some time, the middle cup will fill with water! Observe what color it is. Why do you think that happened?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Two cool things are happening here! The first is color mixing. Your color tabs are **primary colors** (red, yellow, and blue). Mixing two primary colors creates a **secondary color** (orange, green, and purple).



The second is **capillary action**. The paper towel is made of fibers and the water is able to travel through the gaps in the fibers. These gaps act like small tubes and pull the water upward, almost like a drinking straw. This is similar to the way plants use water – the roots soak it up from the ground, then it travels through "tubes" in the plant to reach leaves, stems, flowers, branches, everything!



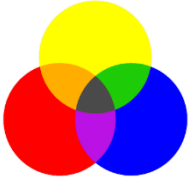
Source: https://funlearningforkids.com/rainbow-walking-water-science-experiment-kids/

LEARN MORE ABOUT IT!

Books (Available at MGPL):

- *Incredible Plants* by Barbara Taylor
- *All About Roots* by Claire Throp
- *What Do Roots, Stems, Leaves, and Flowers Do?* by Ruth Owen
- *What Is Color? by Tea Benduhn*
- *Mixed: A Colorful Story* by Arree Chung
- *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh
- *Mix it Up!* by Herve Tullet
- *This Book Is Gray* by Lindsay Ward

A Fun Sesame Street Song About Color Mixing:
https://youtu.be/yu44JRTIxSQ



NOTE: This experiment is easy to repeat. Bath color tablets are often available in the dollar store/dollar section, or you can use food dye. Reuse the cups, replace the paper towels, and you can see how all sorts of colors mix!